Amendments to the claims:

1. (previously presented) A switching device with a rotatably mounted operating element (10) and an eccentric element (12) for translating a rotational displacement (14) of the operating element (10) into a translatory displacement (16) of a switching element (18), wherein the switching element is in the form of a selector shaft of a hand-held power tool, wherein a shape of the eccentric element (12) differs significantly from that of a rod as well as a circular shape, wherein the eccentric element (12) has a guide surface (24, 26) provided to convert the rotational displacement (14) using a contact point (28, 30) that travels on the guide surface (24, 26) during the rotational displacement (14), wherein the guide surface (24) is substantially parabolic in shape, and wherein a vertex of the parabolic-shaped guide surface (24) points outwardly in a radial direction.

Claims 2 – 6: canceled

7. (previously presented) The switching device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the eccentric element (12) includes at least two guide surfaces (24, 26).

8. (previously presented) The switching device as recited in Claim 1, wherein an eccentricity (22) of the contact point (28) varies by at least 10% during a switching motion.

9. (original) The switching device as recited in Claim 8, wherein an eccentricity (22) of the contact point (28) varies by at least 50 % during a switching motion.

10. (previously presented) The switching device as recited in Claim 1, characterized by a two-legged shift spring (34) which, in at least one operating configuration, contacts the eccentric element (12) at two contact points (28, 30).

11. (original) The switching device as recited in Claim 10, wherein, in at least one operating configuration, the two-legged shift spring (34) is preloaded by the eccentric element (12).

12. (previously presented) A hand-held power tool comprising a switching device , wherein the switching device comprises a rotatably mounted operating element (10) and an eccentric element (12) for translating a rotational displacement (14) of the operating element (10) into a translatory displacement (16) of a switching element (18) in the form of a selector shaft of a hand-held power tool, and wherein a shape of the eccentric element (12) differs significantly from that of a rod as well as from a circular shape, wherein the eccentric element (12) has a guide surface (24, 26) provided to convert the rotational displacement (14) using a contact point (28, 30) that travels on the guide surface (24, 26) during the rotational displacement (14), wherein the guide surface (24) is substantially parabolic in shape, and wherein a vertex of the parabolic-shaped guide surface (24) points outwardly in a radial direction.

13. (currently amended) An eccentric element (12) for translating a rotational displacement (14) of an operating element (10) of a hand-held power tool into a translatory displacement (16) of a switching element (18) of the hand-held power tool, wherein a shape of the eccentric element (12) differs significantly from that of a rod as well as a circular shape, wherein the eccentric element (12) has a guide surface (24, 26) provided to convert the rotational displacement (814) using a contact point (28, 30) that travels on the guide surface (24, 26) during the rotational displacement (814), wherein the guide surface (24) is substantially parabolic in shape, and wherein a vertex of the parabolic-shaped guide surface (24) points outwardly in a radial direction.